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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,873	09/05/2003	Michael S. Kopreski	00-1312-K	5207
20306	7590	10/18/2007	EXAMINER	
MCDONNELL BOEHNEN HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP			LU, FRANK WEI MIN	
300 S. WACKER DRIVE			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
32ND FLOOR			1634	
CHICAGO, IL 60606			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			10/18/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/658,873	KOPRESKI, MICHAEL S.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Frank W. Lu	1634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2007.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12, 14, 16-23, 25, 27, 45, 46, 49 and 50 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 7, 10, 11, 19, 21, 22, 30, 33, 34, 49 and 50 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims subject to restriction and/or election requirement are 1,2,4-6,8,9,12,14,16-18,20,23,25,27-29,31,32,45 and 46.

DETAILED ACTION

CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.114 AFTER FINAL REJECTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission of RCE and the amendment filed on August 7, 2007 have been entered. The claims pending in this application are claims 1-12, 14, 16-23, 25, 27-34, 45, 46, 49, and 50 wherein claims 3, 7, 10, 11, 19, 21, 22, 30, 33, 34, 49, and 50 have been withdrawn due to restriction requirement and species election.

Election/Restrictions

2. In view of the amendments filed on August 7, 2007, the examiner notes that Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 12, 14, 16-18, 20, 23, 25, 27-30, 45, and 46, drawn to a method for detecting, inferring, or monitoring a neoplastic disease in a human, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

II. Claims 31 and 32, drawn to a method of comparing an amount or concentration of a housekeeping gene RNA from blood plasma or serum to an amount or concentration of a tumor-associated RNA from blood plasma or serum of a human (claim 31) and a method of comparing an amount or concentration of a housekeeping gene RNA from a non-cellular fraction of blood to an amount or

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concentration of a tumor-associated RNA from a non-cellular fraction of blood of a human (claim 32), classified in class 435, subclass 6.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Groups I and II are distinct and independent inventions in that they are directed to methods which have different purposes. As a result, different and distinct searches will have to be performed. For example, the search required for Group I such as detecting, inferring, or monitoring a neoplastic disease in a human in claim 1 is not required for Group II while the search required for Group II such as comparing an amount or concentration of a housekeeping gene RNA from blood plasma or serum to an amount or concentration of a tumor-associated RNA from blood plasma or serum of a human in claim 31 is not required for Group I.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993)(See 37 CAR § 1.6(d)). The CM Fax Center number is (571)273-8300.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frank Lu, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571)272-0746. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla, can be reached on (571)272-0735.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

October 12, 2007


FRANK LU
PRIMARY EXAMINER